

Appl. No. 09/826,709
Reply dated May 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed February 13, 2004

1. Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatic conversion of electronic mail to a site on a global telecommunications network, comprising the steps of: providing a portal where a global telecommunications network user can post and modify material on said portal using their existing email client; said user sending electronic mail to said portal; reading said electronic mail with a handler; said handler determining if said electronic mail is a valid request to post; if so, processing said electronic mail in request process logic; creating one or more uniform resource locators for said electronic mail, said uniform resource locators defining a site address on said global telecommunications network;

said user optionally attaching one or more files to said electronic mail, which files are linked to said posted material;

optionally verifying said user to ensure that said post is a valid post;
storing information about said user and said post in a database; processing said information; formatting said electronic mail for hyper text markup language viewing on a new site that is accessed at said site address wherein the new site is created at the created uniform resource locator based on the electronic mail; said portal hosting said site; and optionally sending an email to said user indicating that said electronic mail is now a page at said site, and that said page is ready for viewing.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: formatting said post to provide a suitable appearance.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: staging said post; instituting a verification process to ensure that said user did indeed generate said post; if said user's request is verified, then flagging said post as viewable; and sending an email to said user to indicate said uniform resource locator for said posted information.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising any of the steps of: providing an automatic electronic mail notification of a group of electronic mail users via an optional

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process; providing a process by which said site is submitted to site searching programs; performing any processes within said method for payment by said user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: said user forwarding said uniform resource locator for said site to third parties.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, said verify user process further comprising the steps of: sending an electronic mail to a registered electronic mail address of said user; asking said user to respond; said system comparing said response to a database; if said post is a valid post, flagging said post as viewable; and if said post is not a valid post, sending a rejection and encouraging registration and reposting.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user information comprises any of: name, password, email, and zip code.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user posts comprise any of: unique ID, owner, URL info, post status, subject, body, date created, date last updated, and number of times viewed.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for automatic conversion of electronic mail to a site on a global telecommunications network, comprising the steps of: visiting a site directly to register via a registration process; alternatively creating said site directly; transferring said site into an electronic mail client which is either of a client that is hosted on a user's computer and a network based electronic mail client; said user optionally attaching one or more files to said electronic mail; said user sending said electronic mail to said portal; said portal routing said electronic mail to a handler and processing a request; if a command is not recognized, then said request is routed to a rejection process handler; if said command is recognized, then said request is routed to a verify user process; and

wherein the handler further comprises creating a new site at the created unique uniform resource locator based on the electronic mail.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of: formatting said post to provide a suitable appearance.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of: staging said post; instituting a verification process to ensure that said user did indeed generate said post; if said user's request is verified, then flagging said post as viewable; and sending an email to said user to indicate said uniform resource locator for said posted information.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising any of the steps of: providing an automatic electronic mail notification of a group of electronic mail users via an optional process; providing a process by which said site is submitted to site searching programs; performing any processes within said method for payment by said user.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of: said user forwarding said uniform resource locator for said site to third parties.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, said verify user process further comprising the steps of: sending an electronic mail to a registered electronic mail address of said user; asking said user to respond; said system comparing said response to a database; if said post is a valid post, flagging said post as viewable; and if said post is not a valid post, sending a rejection and encouraging registration and reposting.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatic conversion of electronic mail to a site on a global telecommunications network, comprising:

an electronic mail handling process for handling electronic mail-based requests from global telecommunications network users, for sending electronic mail to users to ask for verification of their electronic mail address, and for providing information about a status of a user request; wherein both outbound and inbound electronic mail handling is provided;

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a request process for providing post, replace, delete, and verify functions; said request process performing uniform resource locator creation, applying updating or inserting rules for same subject and user post, performing verification of user and process state of post, and applying rules for formatting a site page from electronic mail, the post function further comprising the creation of a unique uniform resource locator and the creation of a new site at the created uniform resource locator based on the electronic mail;

a data storage process by which posted information posted is stored in a database, wherein said database schema includes user information, user posts, and logs; and a site hosting process for dynamic page creation, database interaction, user session data manipulation, page caching, and email delivery.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, said electronic mail handling process further comprising: an outbound process for sending hypertext markup language and text email to global telecommunications network users with customized content and reply addressing.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, said electronic mail handling process further comprising: an inbound process for handling electronic mail coming in to multiple mail boxes, filtering unwanted messages, and directing valid requests to an appropriate functional process.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said user information comprises any of: name, password, email, and zip code.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said user posts comprise any of: unique ID, owner, URL info, post status, subject, body, date created, date last updated, and number of times viewed.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said logs comprise: tables for logging user actions and process actions.

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21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising any of: firewall security; post formatting; hardware sizing; bandwidth sizing; load balancing; redundancy; and data backups.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, said request process further comprising a module for recognizing one or more commands described in an addressee field of said electronics message.

23. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of: formatting said post to provide a suitable appearance.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for automatic conversion of electronic mail to a site on a global telecommunications network, comprising the steps of: providing a portal where a global telecommunications network user can post and modify material on said portal using their existing email client; creating one or more uniform resource locators for said electronic mail, said uniform resource locators defining a site address on said global telecommunications network; and formatting said electronic mail for hyper text markup language viewing on a site that is accessed at said site address; and creating a new site at the created uniform resource locator based on the electronic mail.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of: visiting a site directly to register via a registration process; alternatively creating said site directly; transferring said site into an electronic mail client which is either of a client that is hosted on a user's computer and a network based electronic mail client; said user optionally attaching one or more files to said electronic mail; said user sending said electronic mail to a portal by using a specified electronic mail address; said portal routing said electronic mail to a handler and processing a request; if a command is not recognized, then said request is routed to a rejection process handler; if said command is recognized, then said request is routed to a verify user process.

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26. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of: formatting said post to provide a suitable appearance.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of: staging said post; instituting a verification process to ensure that said user did indeed generate said post; if said user's request is verified, then flagging said post as viewable; and sending an email to said user to indicate said uniform resource locator for said posted information.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising any of the steps of: providing an automatic electronic mail notification of a group of electronic mail users via an optional process; providing a process by which said site is submitted to site searching programs; performing any processes within said method for payment by said user.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of: said user forwarding said uniform resource locator for said site to third parties.

30. (Original) The method of claim 24, said verify user process further comprising the steps of: sending an electronic mail to a registered electronic mail address of said user; asking said user to respond; said system comparing said response to a database; if said post is a valid post, flagging said post as viewable; and if said post is not a valid post, sending a rejection and encouraging registration and reposting.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatic conversion of electronic mail to a site on a global telecommunications network, comprising: an electronic mail handling process for handling electronic mail-based requests from global telecommunications network users; a request process for performing uniform resource locator creation, and applying rules for formatting a site page from electronic mail; and a site hosting process for dynamic page creation of a new site at the created uniform resource locator based on the electronic mail, and user session data manipulation.

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32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, said electronic mail handling process further comprising: an outbound process for sending hypertext markup language and text email to global telecommunications network users with customized content and reply addressing.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, said electronic mail handling process further comprising: an inbound process for handling electronic mail coming in to multiple mail boxes, filtering unwanted messages, and directing valid requests to an appropriate functional process.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said user information comprises any of: name, password, email, and zip code.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said user posts comprise any of: unique ID, owner, URL info, post status, subject, body, date created, date last updated, and number of times viewed.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said logs comprise: tables for logging user actions and process actions.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising any of: firewall security, post formatting; hardware sizing; bandwidth sizing; load balancing; redundancy; and data backups.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, said request process further comprising a module for recognizing one or more commands described in an addressee field of said electronics message.

39. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the handler further comprises reading a TO field of the electronic mail that contains a post command to create the site.

40 (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the handler further comprises reading a TO field of the electronic mail that contains a post command to create the site.

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41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the request process further comprising a process that reads a TO field of the electronic mail that contains a post command to create the site.

42. (New) The method of Claim 24 further comprising reading a TO field of the electronic mail that contains a post command to create the site.

43. (New) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail handling process further comprising a process that reads a TO field of the electronic mail that contains a post command to create the site.